STROBILOMYCES MOLLIS CORNER—A NEW RECORD FOR INDIA

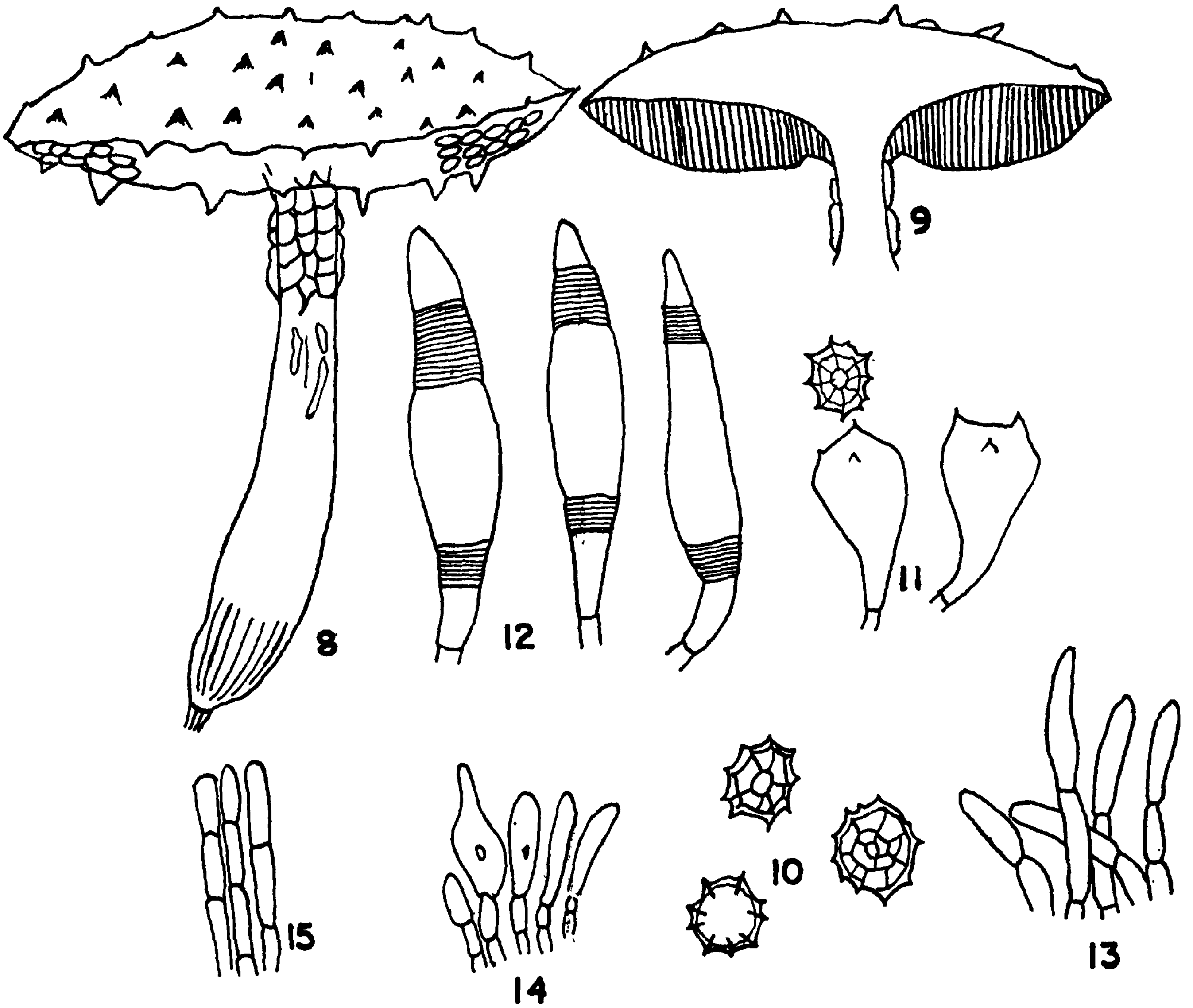
INTRODUCTION

Strobilomyces mollis Corner repeatedly collected during June to September from Himachal Pradesh is described and illustrated. The specimens are deposited in the Herbarium, Department of Bio-Sciences, H. P. University, Simla-5 and Cryptogamic Section, Central National Herbarium, Howrah (CAL).

The fruitbodies have been described from fresh material supplemented with preserved specimens in formalin-alcohol. Microscopic characters of basidiocarps are based on free hand sections placed first in a drop of 95% ethyl alcohol and then mounted in 10% KOH solution mixed with a drop of 2% phloxine. Colours are quoted according to ISCC-NBS system (Kelly and Judd, 1955).

Strobilomyces mollis Corner. *Boletus* in Malaysia, P. 63. 1972.

Pileus 90-100 mm broad, convex to parabolic when young, becoming broadly convex at maturity ; surface gray yellowish brown



Strobilomyces mollis Corner

Figs. 8-15 : 8. Habit sketch. 9. Longitudinal section. 10. Basidiospores ×600. 11. Basidia ×600. 12. Pleurocystidia ×400. 13. Pileus cuticle ×400. 14. Stipe cuticle hyphae ×400. 15 Veil hyphae ×600.
N. B. Figs. 1-7 are not in this sketch.

to dark yellowish brown or reddish black to grayish brown, densely set with soft, subfloccose, black or dark gray, brown conical warts (-4 × 4 mm); margin appendiculate with grayish brown veil fragments ; context 10-15 mm thick, white or pinkish white, gray brown on exposure.

Tubes 15-20 mm deep, gray brown, brown black on exposure, adnate to minutely depressed, subdecurrent with age ; tube surface white or grayish white when young, gray brown at maturity, reddish orange and finally brown black on bruising ; pores 1-2 per mm, roundish.

Stipe 120-160 × 20-40 mm at base, equal or narrowing at apex with age ; surface black to reddish black at base and blackish brown at apex, longitudinally rugulose with apex poroid reticulate, softly floccose or squmulose ; flesh pinkish white, slowly turning brown black on exposure.

Spores reddish black in heaps, 9.5-11.5 × 7-8.5 μm, subglobose, reticulate with a smooth adaxial patch, unchanging in KOH and Melzer's.

Basidia 16-17.5 × 12-13.5 μm, 4-spored, hyaline ; pleurocystidia 27-62 × 11-12.5 μm, numerous, fusiform to rarely lageniform with characteristic transverse bands of dark brown contents at the base and apex, darker in KOH.

Pileus cutis of loosely arranged hyphae with swollen apical cells ; warts and veil of short cylindrical, 4-5.5 μm broad hyphal cells ; stipe cutis of cystidioid cells with brown contents.

Solitary to gregarious, on ground in Oak-forests, taste and odour not distinct.

Material examined : 203. on ground, Taradevi, Shimla, H. P., July 1975 ; 305, on ground, Dalhousie, Chamba, H.P., August 1978 ; 407 on ground, Narkanda Shimla, H.P., August 1980.

Singer (1945) described a specimen of *S. nigricans* Berk., growing on wood from Khasi hills and recorded warts on the pileus and spores measuring 9-11.5 × 8.5-10.3 μm. In the presence of warts and spore size, *S. mollis* Corner looks quite close to *S. nigricans* Berk. However, presence of bigger warts, characteristic pleurocystidia and habitat separate *S. mollis* from *S. nigricans*.

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REFERENCE

Singer, R. The Boletinae of Florida with notes on extralimital species—II. *Florida* 2 : 223-303. 1945.

DISTRIBUTIONAL NOTES ON SIX ENDEMIC TAXA

A critical study based on herbarium sheets in D.D. and ASSAM brought up the following six species hitherto considered to be endemic to a particular area or region but which show extended range of the distribution.

1. **Goniothalamus simonsii** Hk. f. & Th. Fl. Ind. : 108. 1855. (Family-Annonaceae)

This species was based on the collection of Simon from Khasi hills and was believed to be endemic to Meghalaya (Hooker f., 1872 ; Brandis, 1907 ; Kanjilal *et al.* 1934 ; Mukherjee, 1963 and Joseph, 1982). Recent studies on the collections housed in ASSAM and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun revealed that this taxon was also collected